Royalton April 28th 1832

Vol VI

Dear Mother

A time as how is all I can write you this time but Sister Julia thinks I must do that if no more. My correspondents sometimes complain that I am too sentimental in my letters – I do not intend, my Mother that you shall have any cause of complaint of this kind You I mean to be wholly historical. Sister Julia I believe has written you since we left and of course stated particulars of our safe arrival – the commencement of our school and of the pleasantness or unpleasantness of her own situation at the time. Surely the Lord is very good and kind to us both. This term, in a pecuniary sense is likely to be more profitable than either of the preceding. I have had about 40 scholars constantly my labours have been excessive – but withal very pleasant. I have enjoyed much in the society of Sister She is exerting a very good influence there post of setting around her a cluster of friends. She is making more than respectable improvement in her studies. The mental discipline which she is there every day undergoing I consider highly valuable – it is of a nature more severe than anything to which she has been there accustomed. She is well pleased with her boarding place enjoys good health – more cheerful – rises at roll post prime – takes a walk in the morning and seems uniformly cheerful and happy. I should like very much to have her stay

with me another year but dont know can the whole as it is rest. We have lately heard from Maria Learn that she is going to spend a few weeks at Gouverneur and then return to Rupert is probably now at F---. She exhibits a spirit devoted to the cause of her Master a spirit ready to dare to suffer to toil and die for the salvation of the heathens. I doubt not but the Dear Saviours promise "My grace be" with be manifest in her case. I think I can say to her with all my heart yet toil the heathens of a foreign land but know there is room for them in the christians heart. But my dear Master clouds and darkness gather thicker and blacker around my future prospects. I seem often to see a starless night before me whose gloom I dread to penetrate. I have sometimes however, to take one step. I have returned an answer to the Trustees of the Academy that I would stay another year. I feel as though I could not give up the idea of preaching the Gospel that God has some other work for me to do and that I should not be in the path of duty to pursue my present business longer. I shall probably leave this place the last of August. I may after that possibly, spend a few weeks under the paternal roof together with Sisters Maria and Julia. I have asked permission to commence the study of my profession

to visit the object in view - a Foreign Mission. The answer to my letter gave me little or no satisfaction. It removed neither a single doubt or quelled a solitary fear so that I am still floating on the wave of uncertainty and doubt - not even with probability, conjecturing where the shattered fragments of my disciplined life may finally strand. I anticipate the future with a sort of instinctive dread - yet often an all consuming curiosity to pry into its secrets creates a restless desire that the pages of my future destiny might be more rapidly turned. A state of suspense - a hope for that which [illegible] the efforts of arms to obtain with, be of any avail [illegible] we have merely to fold our hands and wait, is at home all things most disagreeable to an active being. I hope I am willing to know & do part of my duty - and it is my prayer that I may ever cheerfully transact it. Do pray for me my Mother that I may not mistake with regard to my future course - that I may not be allowed to take any rash or precipitate steps that may injure the cause of Christ or impede my own [illegible] usefulness & happiness. I shall write another letter soon to C... May the Holy Spirit guide my pen. While we seem Dear Mother and like a Mother. for I feel still that I need your counsel as well as your prayers Love to all - In haste - your Son W. C. Preston

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1 Flight

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Miss Polly Fisher

Rupert Vt